

TINTWISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer's Report for the year ending December, 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year 1959. This was the last full year of office of Dr. Brown as your Medical Officer of Health and your Council has shown its appreciation on the occasion of his retirement of his excellent work during the past thirty years.

POPULATION

For the purpose of estimating birth and death rates, the Registrar General has for the 1959 mid-year figure estimated the number of persons as 1,510 - an increase of 20 over the previous year.

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered was 16 of which 9 were males and 7 females. 94% of these were born in maternity homes or hospital. No Still Births were reported.

The Crude Birth Rate was 10.6 per 1,000 compared with 21.5 for 1958. This rate when adjusted for comparative purposes with other districts was 11.0 per 1,000. The Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1959 was 16.5.

DEATHS

The number of deaths registered was 18 of which 10 were males and 8 were females.

The Crude Death Rate was 11.9 per 1,000 compared with 9.4 for 1958. The rate when adjusted for comparative purposes with other districts was 10.8 per 1,000.

The causes of death were certified as under:-

Coronary Heart Disease.....3	Cancer .....3
Other Heart Disease.....3	Respiratory Diseases.....2
Other Disease of Circulation...1	Influenza.....1
Haemorrhage of Brain.....5	

No deaths occurred among infants under 12 months of age.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were notified:-

Measles.....	5
Dysentery.....	13

There was an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery from 21st January to 12th February, the notified cases all being children at Tintwistle schools. There may well have been other cases amongst adults which were not notified. Dr. Brown and Mr. Skirrow made many investigations and took immediate precautions within the schools to limit the spread of infection. All cases were excluded and close contacts were excluded until negative stool specimens had been obtained. The last case occurred on 12th February and all the children had returned to school by mid-March.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register on the 31st December was four, all of these having the disease in the lungs.

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### CARE OF MOTHERS AND BABIES

The Clinic in Christ Church School, Tintwistle, was held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. A doctor, a nurse, and members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee attended each session.

Attendances were as under:-

<u>New Cases</u>	<u>Total Attendances</u>	<u>Average Attendances</u>	<u>Seen by Doctor</u>
23(33)	751(571)	31(24)	157(141)

Figures in brackets indicate the corresponding numbers in the previous year.

As no public transport is available provision is made for cases resident in the Crowden and Woodhead area to be provided with free motor transport to attend the clinic once per month.

A Ladies Voluntary Welfare Committee provides valuable assistance to the Doctor and Nurse in attendance by the sale of infant foods, the provision of teas to mothers, and clerical duties in connection with the clinic. In addition to the stock of proprietary infant foods maintained by this Committee the issue of National Welfare Foods against coupons surrendered by the recipients is undertaken.

One member of this Committee attends the monthly meetings of the Hyde Divisional Health Committee, thus providing a very necessary link between this voluntary body and the statutory Divisional Health Committee which in effect is a Sub-Committee of the Cheshire County Health Committee.

### NURSING SERVICES

The part-time services of a Health Visitor, employed by the County Council, who is also responsible for covering the Longdendale U.D.C. area are available. Her duties include the visiting in the homes of all children under the age of 5 years, attendance at Clinic sessions and the visiting of school children in need of medical supervision.

The care of the aged and infirm in their own homes forms an important part of her duties, and visits to cases of Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases are carried out at regular periods by this Nurse.

Cases of general sickness in the homes of the residents can, upon the request of family doctors, receive nursing attention from a District Nurse employed by the Cheshire County Council resident in Hollingworth.

For maternity cases a Domiciliary Midwife resident in Hollingworth covers the Council's area. Motor transport is provided for these three nurses.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulance transport for the sick and injured is the responsibility of the Hyde Health Division of the Cheshire County Council.

The number of patients carried during 1959 was 750.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Mr. F. Skirrow, Public Health Inspector to your Council, has supplied me with the following information:-

### WATER SUPPLY

The supply is provided by Manchester Corporation Waterworks and is drawn from the Crowden and Woodhead Catchment areas, being chlorinated except in the Woodhead and Crowden parts of the district.

Five samples of mains supply water taken during the year were all reported as being satisfactory, with "Nil Counts" in every case.

A private water supply to cottages at Woodhead owned by British Railways was



cleaned and improved during the year.

#### SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The District is fortunate in that only four premises are not on the water carriage system, though there still remain approximately 20 waste water closets. The Council continues its policy of making a £5 contribution under Section 47 Public Health Act, 1936 towards the conversion of these to wash-down pedestal type, but only four W.C.'s were provided in these cases during the year. It is to be hoped that the owners of the remaining waste-water closets will take advantage of the scheme, failing which the Council may be obliged to consider requiring compulsorily the work at some time in the future.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Reports were received during the year from the Mersey River Board to the effect that the effluent from the Council's Sewage Works did not comply with the required standard. Though the results were only slightly below the prescribed standard, the Council authorised the preparation of a scheme by its Consulting Engineer to incorporate repairs which were needed to existing tanks and equipment, together with additional filtration area and other improvements. In due course it is expected that this scheme will be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

During the year investigations took place to ascertain the source of a leakage of sewerage into the Bridge Mill Yard, and a portion of 15" sewer was re-laid near the bottom of New Road. Further work was suspended until negotiations could take place with the Cheshire County Council Highways Department and Manchester Corporation Waterworks, both of whom were major dischargers into the sewer, after which additional work was agreed on a proportionate basis, and later undertaken on behalf of the Council by direct labour under the control of Manchester Waterworks.

#### HOUSING

Towards the end of the year preliminary estate works had commenced in connection with the erection of 24 old people's bungalows on a site behind Manchester Road, Tintwistle.

No other Council house building took place during the year, though 4 private dwellings were either completed or under course of erection.

The Council were informed officially of the possibility of utilising the row of cottages at Crowden, known as Home Row and in the ownership of Manchester Corporation Waterworks Department, for use as a Youth Hostel. As a result discussions took place with the Waterworks Department and the Peak Planning Board when the Council's wish to avoid the closure of the cottages as dwellings was put forward, this on the grounds of loss of community interest at Crowden. No final decision had been made at the end of the year.

The Council continued to encourage applications for Improvement Grants towards dwellings, and also for the newly introduced 'Standard Grants', and also made advances under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts within the scope of the valuer's report.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection is by private contractor, and the contract for the service was renewed for a further three year period at the beginning of the year. Dustbins which are provided by the Council under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, are emptied weekly in all except the outlying Crowden and Woodhead districts which have a fortnightly collection.

Tipping continued on the Council's land off West Drive, and efforts were made to reduce the depth of the tip face. During the summer a fire occurred which fortunately was quickly extinguished by the Fire Service. On this question of fires on the tip and the surrounding area of grassland, it is to be regretted that the practice of children lighting fires continues. Apart from the danger involved to the children, such acts can and do involve much unnecessary expense and labour, and the co-operation of parents in discouraging the practice is earnestly requested.



Discussions took place jointly with the Longdendale U.D.C. and the Cheshire County Council Highways Department to investigate the possibility of having street gullies emptied by mechanical vehicle instead of manually, the question of re-sealing the gullies in dry weather also being a factor. Co-operation was provided as a result.

#### SANITARY INSPECTIONS

The number of inspections carried out was approximately 750.

Statutory Notices served	4
Informal Notices	37

#### RODENT CONTROL

Sewer testing and treatment was carried out as previously during the year, and treatment given to the tip and sewage works, in addition to the free treatment afforded to private dwellings within the district.

#### PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, ETC.

Generally the standard of the food premises in the district is satisfactory, and no formal action was found necessary. Three samples of ice cream submitted to the Public Health Laboratory were reported on as being Grade I. There is no manufactory within the district.

The district was included as from April, 1959 in an area subject to the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1959, where the sale of milk other than heat-treated or tuberculin-tested is prohibited.

There are no slaughterhouses in the district and in accordance with the new legislation covering slaughtering a report approved by the Health Committee on 21st December, 1959 contained a statement to the effect that the needs of the district were and could be adequately met from sources outside the district.

Surprising repercussions followed the informal notification of inadequate sanitary accommodation at the George and Dragon Inn, Woodhead, to the owners, Manchester Corporation Waterworks Department, due to the latter indicating that rather than incurring further expenditure on the property, demolition would be preferred. Re-action to this point of view was considerable, taking the form of a petition and representations from various organisations who used the hospitality of this inn in the comparatively remote situation in the Pennines, all of whom voiced their apprehension on the question of possible closure.

As a result consultation took place between representatives of the Manchester Corporation Waterworks Committee and the Council, and though no final decision had been reached by the year end, there were hopes of some form of compromise.

#### FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

No action was taken re contraventions under the above. The three outworkers notified were visited and found satisfactory as far as conditions were concerned.

#### GENERAL

It is worth mentioning that the year saw the commencement of the construction of the extensive mechanical filtration plant in Manchester Road, Tintwistle for the Manchester Corporation Waterworks. Though this plant will not treat water used in the Tintwistle Rural District, the plant itself will be a notable feature of the village.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. H. DANE

This report would be incomplete without reference to the retirement in June, 1959 of Mr. H. Dane, after serving the District as Public Health Inspector for many years. The appreciation expressed by the Council on his retirement, of his contribution to the district and the manner in which he carried out his duties was truly earned.

I am appreciative of the assistance rendered to me by members of the Council and for the help and information supplied by other officials.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W.TURNER,

Medical Officer of Health

September, 1960.

